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**IRAQ**

# IRAQ ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PROJECT

## MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER, 2015

**JANUARY 01, 2016**

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Management Systems International.

# IRAQ ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PROJECT

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2015



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Contracted under AID-267-C-11-0005 Iraq Administrative Reform Project

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## ACRONYMS

BIAP	Baghdad International Airport
BPD	Barrel Per Day (Oil)
CCR	Continuous-generation Catalytic Reforming unit
COMSEC	Council of Ministers Secretariat
COP	Chief of Party
DG	Director General
DGGC	Directorate General of Government Contracts
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
FY	Fiscal Year
GO	Governor Office
Gol	Government of Iraq
GPS	Global Positioning System
HQ	Headquarter
IDC	Iraqi Oil Drilling Company
IDMS	Iraq Development Management System
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IG	Inspector General
INMS	Iraqi National Monitoring System
IQD	Iraqi Dinar
ISF	Iraqi Special Forces
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IT	Information Technology
LC	Letter of Credit
MLDW	Mobil Lube De-waxing Process
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoO	Ministry of Oil
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MRC	Midland Refineries Company
MSI	Management Systems International
NCMDIT	National Center for Management Development and Information Technology
NDP	National Development Plan
OD	Organization Development
OJT	On- Job-Training
OPC	Oil Pipelines Company
PKK	Kurdistan Workers' Party
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSC	Private Security Company
RFP	Request for Proposal
SBDs	Standard Bidding Documents
SCOP	State Company for Oil Projects
SOC	South Oil Company
SPP	Standard Procurement Process
SRC	South Refineries Company
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United State Government

## SUMMARY

**Oil** During the reporting period, USAID-Tarabot developed and integrated its support to the Ministry of Oil (MoO), refining its overall vision and goals with the aim of increasing oil revenues through immediate practical solutions to existing oil sector deficiencies and problems. We continued working closely with senior officials in the Oil sector to overcome difficulties in project implementation and contracting by applying project management techniques, and resolving contract disputes so that the selected revenue improving projects can move forward as quickly as possible.

USAID-Tarabot also maintained its support for selected ministry directorates, assisting in organizational development of their contracts departments, and drafting job descriptions for their staff. Coordination continues with these directorates to clarify and improve the roles, responsibilities and lines of authority within MoO. Outdated, harmful, and contradictory laws, regulations, and instructions continue to be reviewed, with the aim of transferring powers from higher to lower levels of the bureaucracy. USAID-Tarabot has also been assisting MoO staff to qualify for the PMP certificate exam, and complete the necessary steps toward graduation.

**Procurement** USAID-Tarabot continued to provide technical support to the MoP Help Desk on the use of Standard Bidding Documents (SBD's) in the tender of consultant services. It has also provided technical support to help the MoP conduct the PPP program

**Iraq Development Management System (IDMS)** As MoP continues the rollout of IDMS, USAID-Tarabot has been focusing on the generation of system reports, and working with the software company, Synergy, to address bugs and other deficiencies. USAID-Tarabot and the MoP IDMS team are in the final phase of evaluating the features of the IDMS before acceptance of the system. IDMS enhances the transparency and management of Iraq's capital investment portfolio, allowing more efficient monitoring and control of public funds.

**Events:** USAID-Tarabot project engaged in the following activities during December:

- **Total Events:** USAID-Tarabot teams held (117) events; representing (8) workshop and (109) meetings.
- **Locations:** (90) of these events were held at locations in Baghdad, while (27) events were delivered in Basrah.
- **Institutions:** a total of (4) government institutions were involved in USAID-Tarabot activities in November; representing (4) ministries.
- **Tarabot Technical Teams:** The Procurement Advisory Unit implemented (10) events to support ministry of planning, (97) events were implemented by Oil Sector Team, and (10) events were implemented by IDMS Team.

## **I. RAPID IMPROVEMENTS OF THE OIL SECTOR REVENUES**

USAID-*Tarabot* continued moving forward with the implementation of its technical assistance program to Ministry of Oil (MoO) and its state companies, by identifying and implementing high-priority interventions with the potential to increase oil revenues.

### **1.1 Implementation of Critical Projects**

#### **1.1.1 Provide Technical Assistance to MoO to Implement Technically Challenged and Delayed Projects**

USAID-*Tarabot* conducted several meetings with South Oil Company (SOC) officials to discuss the prequalification SBD of the tugboats for the technically challenged rough weather outages project. SOC confirmed that the prequalification will be publicly announced, with special invitations for companies which have previously worked with SOC (depending on the approval of the deputy minister). The finalization of the draft prequalification SBD continued, and it was agreed to utilize limited competitive bidding (according to MoPs 2014 regulations) and to post it on the dgMarket web site. Meanwhile, USAID-*Tarabot* started preparing the SBDs for the procurement of goods for the tender, and to assist them on filling the data sheet for this project. The evaluation criteria, technical specifications, special conditions, and the contract sample will be completed in the following days.

#### **1.1.2 Improve MoO capacity to implement the Technically Challenged and Troubled Refinery Projects**

USAID-*Tarabot* submitted an official letter to SRC Head of Projects Department, Mr. Ibrahim Mansif, detailing the reasons why a dehydrator will not help the salt in crude problem. A further letter was sent detailing the lab test designed to determine whether two-stage desalting is the solution, or if it is oil production chemicals that are causing the problem.

Meanwhile, USAID-*Tarabot* received from MRC a copy of the SoW for the remaining boiler project. *Tarabot's* Project Management team will help with a cost estimate. Finally, USAID-*Tarabot* confirmed that an inspection of the boilers and the rotating equipment will be required.

## 1.2 Improve MoO Procurement Procedures and Processes

### 1.2.1 Develop Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) for the Oil Sector

The USAID-Tarabot, the MoP, and the MoO have conducted meetings and site visits over the past few months in order to determine the viability of a specialized Oil Sector SBD. After reviewing the findings, this month, the Minister of Planning issued a letter to the MoO, suggesting that the existing MoP-issued SBD was designed with sufficient flexibility to accommodate the specific needs and contracting processes of all Ministries, including those of the oil sector: he therefore saw no need to develop a MoO-specific SBD. USAID-Tarabot and MoP await the MoO's official response to this feedback. Tarabot continues to deliver technical assistance to MoO state companies on using the currently MoP-adopted SBD's for the selected new tenders.



### 1.2.2 Assist MoO in Preparing New Tenders

USAID-Tarabot conducted several technical meetings with SCOP to discuss the prequalification documents for Bin Omer Project, and the overall implantation of the Procurement workplan. SCOP agreed to complete the project documents and post them on dgMarket.

USAID-Tarabot reviewed and provided comments on OPC's draft terms of reference for the selection and employment of international consultant to develop FEED study for Gas compression project.

### 1.2.3 Implement an Effective Procurement System at MoO

**MRC** USAID-Tarabot held a set of technical meetings with MRC officials to discuss the bidding documents of the "Flare Gas Recovery project" and to complete the procurement plan for investment projects within 2016 budget. The USAID-Tarabot team is waiting MRC to:

- Prioritize these projects depending on the cash available, and to add the expected start dates for the contracting phase.
- Adopt the Standard procurement process,

A five-day SBD workshop was held at the MRC training Center for 13 participants (7 male and 6 female) from different departments, including from Projects, Contracts, Studies, Design, Stores and Procurement. The workshop was intensely practical, and with the guidance of Tarabot advisers participants prepared Standard Bidding Documents, a Scope of Work, and a Pre-Qualification Document for the "Flare Gas Recovery project". The project is expected to be announced in the New Year.

Tarabot also discussed the completion of the procurement plan for investment projects for the 2016 budget. Following details on MRC's expected priority projects, tentative start dates for the contracting phase can be inserted into 2016 procurement plan. MRC is the first company within the

MoO to prepare their 2016 procurement plan before the start of the New Year. This is a major accomplishment.

Following USAID-*Tarabot* recommendations, MRC has also led the way with its adoption of SPP as a standard procedure within the company, and has reduced the duration of its analysis and evaluation process from 6 months to 3 months.

**OPC** USAID-*Tarabot* conducted technical follow up meetings with OPC managers on company and job descriptions for the Departments of Customs, and Letter of Credit & Guarantees. A draft structure was also prepared.

*Tarabot* assistance with the final copy of the 2016 procurement plan investment projects was sent to the DG for review and approval. Additionally, its technical support led to official approval to subscribe to the dgMarket. The team is now working with OPC to register the company as a buyer, in order to advertise all its international bids on the dgMarket website.

**SOC** USAID-*Tarabot* continued work, this month, on implementing the full procurement package within the relevant SOC departments. The final review of the prequalification document for the design and construction of the tugboats tender took place in a series of meetings with officials, a pre-requisite for posting the invitation on the dgMarket. Technological issues connected with the dgMarket posting were also overcome with *Tarabot* technical support. Meanwhile, SOC approved a *Tarabot* suggestion to form a departmental team, including employees from the commercial, legal, and auditing departments, to be responsible for developing the Standard Bidding Documents.





**SCOP** The new SCOP web page [www.scop.oil.gov.iq](http://www.scop.oil.gov.iq) went online this month, following approval of USAID-Tarabot's recommendations by the SCOP DG. Experts worked with IT Manager, Ms. Aseel Abdulla, to follow-up the operation of the new web page, and helped link it to the dgMarket. It can be found at: [http://www.dgmarket.com/tenders/SearchResult.do?data\\_type=P&cntry=&agency=&ref\\_no=&updated=all&ntype=&buyerStatusFilter=&locationlSO](http://www.dgmarket.com/tenders/SearchResult.do?data_type=P&cntry=&agency=&ref_no=&updated=all&ntype=&buyerStatusFilter=&locationlSO)



USAID-Tarabot conducted a technical workshop to go over performance indicators with 19 members of SCOP (11 males and 8 females) from a number of different departments. The objective of the workshop was not only to explain the indicators themselves, but to illustrate their application and importance. During the workshop, the Tarabot team presented an official letter from MoP instructing the government-wide adoption of performance indicators. USAID-Tarabot will continue following up with SCOP to adopt and apply the performance indicators.

SCOP DG requested USAID-Tarabot's assistance to update SCOP's entire qualification system to bring it in line with international regulations. The use of prequalification documents, instead of direct invitation, for the Bin Omar Depot Project was also approved, along with permission to post the invitation on the dgMarket. USAID-Tarabot is working to complete the announcement and the document for Bin Omar Depot Project.

**SRC** USAID-Tarabot held technical meetings with SRC to follow up on the bidding documents for the "21 Km pipeline project" which were prepared during November. As a result of these meetings SRC agreed to:

- a) Finalize the document and send an official copy to Tarabot
- b) Prepare bidding documents for the sea water desalination project.
- c) Finalize the Data sheet for the nominated projects.

USAID-Tarabot delivered a four-day advanced procurement workshop for 21 participants (Males 17, Females 5) at SRC's Oil Training Institution in Basrah. The course covered: Consultant services, proposal preparation (using the MoP-issued Standard Bidding Documents (SBD), proposal opening and evaluation procedures, contract awards, and contract implementation, and more – all according to the MoP-issued SRFP-SBDs.

**IDC** USAID-Tarabot met staff from the Procurement and Material Department in the Iraqi Drilling Company (IDC) in order to complete their procurement assessment and to clarify plans for implementing SBDs on sample projects selected from their 2016 investment plan. The final draft of the assessment will be sent to the DG for approval and for his nomination of pilot projects upon which to apply SBDs.

## I.3 Improve Projects Execution

### I.3.1 Provide TA to MoO to Improve Implementation of Ongoing delayed Projects

**SOC** USAID-Tarabot conducted a site visit with SOC officials to Nahr Bin Umar field construction project with SOC Director of the Project Management Department, Project Managers and Project engineers. Project documentation was reviewed, along with an estimated percentage of completion. SOC explained current problems facing the implementation;

- Land ownership dispute. Local people claim that the land belongs to them, despite the title belonging to the government.
- The project is implemented directly by SOC staff who face difficulty with administrative procedures.
- SOC project management teams are required to use all the national effort options before announcing a tender for processing or setting up work packages for the project. Setting up one column took four months. Despite the estimated time being a week.



SOC agreed to prepare a list of the remaining work with respect to the project scope, schedule and tracking tools, in order request the required technical support from USAID-Tarabot.

A further site visit was conducted by Tarabot advisors to “Al Fao Depot-8 Tanks” project implemented by SOC. Discussions were held with the project manager and the contractor, Ibn Majed, to discuss project progress. It is currently stalled at 30% completion, and has multiple issues preventing progress. A dispute between the contractor and the SOC is still pending MoO intervention, and delays in contractor payments still outstanding. Meetings between the various parties have no actionable result, and work remains stalled. Tarabot can assist by helping to involve a higher authority at the MoO, such as a Minister, or a Deputy Minister, to intervene. Tarabot can also assist to solve other problems plaguing the project, including, rescheduling and implementing effective project management systems.

**MRC** This month USAID-Tarabot received an official letter issued by MRC Head of Project Management Department to the Manager of Technical Commission confirming the estimated cost and approach of “Nitrogen 600 NCMPH Unit.” The cost information was developed and approved during a workshop with Tarabot last month. With the formal approval by the Head of the MRC Project Management Department, Tarabot can now move ahead with the next phase of assistance.

USAID-Tarabot completed a cost estimation workshop for the “De-Waxing” project for 19 engineers and estimators (15 males, 4 females) from MRC. The aim of the project is to replace the existing unit with a new one in order to increase production by 50% and decrease operation costs by 40%. During the workshop, Tarabot advisors presented a general overview of cost estimation and its concepts, estimation documents and approach, as well as practical examples and templates. The participants were divided into groups to complete the project requirements documents, scope of work, and work breakdown structure. At the end of the workshop, participants found the “Three-Point Estimating” and “Parametric” techniques to estimate the final cost to be an effective tool. By

better understanding the cost estimation process and its techniques, the MRC will have the capacity to estimate future projects' costs and ensure that more qualified and capable bidders apply, as the range of estimates is more accurate. Following up this workshop USAID-Tarabot met with MRC Head of Project Implementation Department, Mrs. Rasmiya Badr. They discussed MRC's new projects, and in particular Tarabot's assistance with cost estimation, the results of the "De-waxing" cost estimation workshop, and the required documentation to complete the cost estimation report.

**SRC** USAID-Tarabot met with SRC engineers to discuss the obstacles facing the ongoing delayed projects, particularly the "Liquid Gas Unit", "Water Treatment in Qarmat Ali" and "Increasing the Capacity of the Basra Refinery" projects. During the meeting the participants agreed to the following:

- To conduct a high-level meeting between USAID-Tarabot and the Director General of SRC to go over with Tarabot all aspects of the aforementioned projects.
- Tarabot will send a formal letter to coordinate the meeting.
- Tarabot team will prepare a PMO (Project Management Office) proposal
- USAID-Tarabot continues engaging in the field through conducting site visits to the nominated projects to provide technical assistance to SRC.

**SCOP** USAID-Tarabot visited "Al-Fao Depot project-16 tanks" implemented by SCOP in Basrah, and met with the project manager and his team to discuss progress, and the obstacles facing project execution, such as a lack of funding, precision machining cables, field devices and lack of powers of the project manager to make quick decisions to solve project issues. The participants agreed to develop an action plan to resolve obstacles and to work with SCOP headquarters in Baghdad.

### **1.3.2 Assist MoO to Implement Project Management Urgent Systems**

**SCOP** Based on USAID-Tarabot workshop for SCOP staff that was conducted for the Planning & Scheduling Department using Primavera P6, USAID-Tarabot continued assisting SCOP on using Primavera P6. USAID-Tarabot will submit a proposal to establish a Primavera unit at SCOP during the first week of January, 2016, and to provide a ToT (Training of Trainers) in Primavera to the new staff.

**MRC** USAID-Tarabot conducted a process mapping and projects tracking, evaluating and control workshop for 14 engineers from MRC (2 females, 12 males). This workshop identified the main causes of delay when implementing projects in regards to project management and regulations/authorities. Participants developed a list of recommendations based on their analysis to be sent to the DG for approval.

**SRC** The goal is to accomplish the same thing at the SRC. On Dec 14, 2015 USAID-Tarabot met with representative of Engineering Branch in the Projects Department of SRC Mr. Mohammed Abod Salman to develop a schedule for future workshops and meetings for this purpose. Tarabot will send the final schedule, supported by an official memo to the subcommittee, to get final approval and confirmation.

### **I.3.3 Assist MoO to Implement the PMP Certificate Program**

USAID-Tarabot and the manager of TOEFL training center, Mrs. Huda Abed Ali, and General Manager of Training & Development Directorate at MoO, Mr. Sadik Husein Al-Yassiri, set a date for the English language placement test. This is a first step in qualification for the PMP certification test. On Dec 21, 2015 the MoO Training and Development Directorate issued an official letter approving the date of the test (Dec 27, 2015) and the final list of 60 participants from different oil companies who will participate in the TOEFL test.

The English test was completed successfully for 40 participants on Dec-27-2015 at Baghdad University's TOEFL center.

## **I.4 Improve internal policies, regulations and administrative functions**

### **I.4.1 Enhance Roles, Responsibilities and Lines of Authority**

USAID-Tarabot and MoO officials continued revise roles, responsibilities and lines of authorities through delegation and empowering project managers to strengthen their roles in the field.

**MRC** USAID-Tarabot Regulatory Reform Team conducted a technical meeting with MRC Director of Human Resources Department, Mrs. Najah Abdul Razak Jaber, and Associate Director-General of Administrative and Financial Affairs, Mr. Imad Jwad, to review the final draft of the administrative, financial and technical powers list that was collected during a previous Tarabot workshop. The MRC DG officially accepted the list 16 of the recommendations, which transfer several powers and authorities, from the DG to lower levels. This will vastly improve operations, as fewer day-to-day operational decisions will need to be brought to the DG, and can be handled by deputies or other lower level managers. USAID-Tarabot will continue working with MRC to provide technical assistance as implementation takes place.

**SCOP** USAID-Tarabot worked with SCOP to develop a draft list of administrative, financial and technical powers of SCOP which are concentrated at the MoO HQ. As a result of this support a final proposed list was developed, and is under discussion between Tarabot and SCOP. USAID-Tarabot submitted an official letter regarding to the list of proposed powers that should be moved from top level to low level in SCOP and to present the action plan of Package of Regulatory reform delegation of authorities with MoO.

### **I.4.2 Assist MoO to streamline Internal Regulations and Procedures**

USAID-Tarabot met with Ministry of Oil to discuss the reasons for delay of the issue of security clearances when clearing out sensitive items and dual-use goods/materials through customs. The security clearances were issued for different number of companies with the same official letter. As a result of the meeting MoO contacted the security agencies and it was agreed that security clearances will be issued for each individual company shipment.

USAID-Tarabot conducted another meeting with the Iraq Drilling Company (IDC) to discuss the problems facing IDC staff in opening the letters of credits (L/Cs) forms such as:

- 1-The private sectors banks are not qualified for L/Cs opening;
- 2- The delay in sending the L/Cs to the supplying companies, which are waiting to pay the opening fees; and

3- Some intermediate companies include information which do not belong to IDC.

USAID-Tarabot will continue working with IDC to find solutions for these problems.

USAID-Tarabot sent three official letters to General Customs Department, General Tax Department and Iraqi Ports Company. In these letters, it presented solutions for obstacles mentioned by the MoO officials to achieve a smooth and effective process to save time and increase production.

USAID-Tarabot conducted a meeting with Acting DG of Public Commission of Customs, Mr. Abdul-Sattar al-Ani and Director General of the Public Commission of Taxes, Mr. Kadhim Ali Abdullah, to discuss the two official letters that were sent by Tarabot on Dec 14, 2015. These letters included recommendations for the obstacles facing MoO when clearing good/materials, in order to simplify the procedures according to Tarabot's recommendations. The DG of General Authority for Customs agreed to send official letters requesting Tarabot's recommendations regarding customs and taxes to be implemented. Tarabot also sent a list of recommendations to the DG of the Company of Iraqi ports. This list is pending review of the DG.



#### 1.4.3 Assist MoO to Adopt Administrative Reform

**SCOP** USAID-Tarabot continued to guide implementation of the quality management system (QMS) for SCOP and continue outlining the plan to qualify SCOP staff for the quality management standard ISO9001:2008. There are four requirements to receive this certification:

1. Documentation of ability to consistently provide products that meet customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements
2. Effective implementation of the system, including processes for continual improvement and assurance of conformity to requirements
3. Ability to pass an audit or check of steps one and two.
4. Receipt of the final certification itself.



The QMS documentation (step one of the ISO 9000 process) has been completed, and the QMD policy adopted and published. And an official letter was sent by Tarabot to SCOP management to confirm that the documentation process is completed. Tarabot is working with SCOP to complete the next step (step two in the process of becoming certified), and once this step finished, SCOP can initiate more progressive steps towards soliciting a third party auditor to review the changes (step three) and grant certification (step four). Tarabot continues to assist SCOP in the selection of a company to nominate for the review and auditing step of the certification issuance (step three), and SCOP has started to communication with certification bodies.

**OPC** USAID-Tarabot met with OPC's Process Development Team in the Cathode Protection Department to finalize the draft of the procedures for "Regular Maintenance for Cathode Protection Stations" using Visio diagram. Meanwhile, USAID-Tarabot started drafting the procedures document for "Determined of oil pipe direction". The draft three procedures were sent by Tarabot to OPC



for review and approval. USAID-Tarabot was informed by OPC that the Safety & Firefighting department approved using Visio diagram for the two approved procedures, titled “regular maintenance of mobile firefighting device” and “Maintenance of fixed firefighting devices”.

USAID-Tarabot met with OPC senior chief engineer to deliver the final draft of the Cathodic Protection Department procedures along with the Visio diagram. Meanwhile, another final draft and diagram of the Safety and Fire-fighting department was submitted to the team leader of Process Development team for his as well as team members’ concurrence. USAID-Tarabot and OPC Safety and Fire-fighting department team leader nominated the following procedures:

1. Clarification regarding tankers authorized to enter Doura complex
2. Accident inspection
3. Regular medical test for employees

## **2. IRAQ DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IDMS)**

### **2.1 Support the MoP to Adopt IDMS**

#### **2.1.2 Government Wide Deployment of the IDMS to 8 entities**

This month, USAID-Tarabot provided technical assistance to the selected GoI entities on how to upload their contracts, details required by the system, and how they can extract reports to verify the data quality. This will help on a quick adoption of the IDMS system inside the GoI entities.

#### **2.1.3 Support the Sustainability and Maintenance of the IDMS**

USAID-Tarabot and MoP worked to finalize the IDMS maintenance contract ToR definitions, and to change the contract name from “IDMS maintenance contract”, into “IDMS service support”. They also updated the contract to make it compatible with current Iraqi contracting instructions and regulations. Further meetings which agreed to:

- Finalize the final copy of the ToR.
- Contact Synergy to finish the company registration and the exclusive rights documents.
- Prepare the required training program.
- Contact all related departments to get confirmation about IDMS updates.
- Send letters to Iraqi Telecommunications and Post Company (ITPC) and Al-Nahrain University to host and support IDMS capability.



Meanwhile, IDMS team worked to arrange for the issuance and delivery of the Terms of Reference for the service contract to the software company Synergy. Additionally, they also worked on the payments for outstanding invoices for past work. The delivery of these two items should allow for Synergy to complete the identified system glitches and issues, in order for the MoP to officially accept and adopt the IDMS before rolling it out government wide

## 3. SUPPORT TO MOP'S HELP DESK

### 3.1 MoP capacity building

#### 3.1.1 Development of Public -Private Partnership PPP

USAID-Tarabot conducted several technical meetings with MoP General Director of DGGC to follow up the progress of conducting PPPs workshop. The participants agreed to conduct this workshop during January, 2016. MoP-DGGC was nominated Dr. Mirvat Al-Taie from (Baghdad University) to lecturing the PPPs workshop along with USAID-Tarabot.

Meanwhile, USAID-Tarabot met Dr. Meervat Al-Taie, from Baghdad University, to cooperate and coordinate the upcoming PPP workshop. Tarabot also met MoP officials, to continue discussion of this initiative. The MoP will host with Tarabot a kickoff workshop to begin brain-storming the PPP concepts, discussing the draft PPP law and the different models that the GOI can adopt moving forward. Participants will include government officials. This will be the first in a series of workshops to refine the PPP.

Additionally, USAID-Tarabot agreed with MoP DGGC to add the PPPs workshops in MoP-DGGC 2016 Training plan.

#### 3.1.3 Development of Public Procurement ToT Program

USAID-Tarabot worked with the 10 ToT Public Procurement trainers, recently certified from ILO-Turin, in order to help them to issue a 2016 training plan to all GoI entities. The MoP-DGGC will involve all the public procurement ToTs in implementing this.

Following this, the Director General, Dr. Azhar, sent an official request to USAID-Tarabot to review and update the proposed 2016 annual training program. Tarabot worked with MoP Training Section to review and update it, and submitted its recommendations to the Ministry, which has agreed to modify the plan accordingly, and circulate it to all GoI entities.

USAID-Tarabot also assisted the recently graduated Public Procurement experts, to conduct SBD's Workshops at (NCMDIT) for participants representing various GoI entities, such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry Labor and social Affairs.

## PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

### Staffing, Deployment, Registration

This month, USAID-Tarabot local staff increased to 59 employees. One short-term expatriate advisor concluded their SOWs and departed during the month.

### Security

ISIS activity continues in the north and west of Iraq. Iraq forces have reportedly retaken almost 80% of Ramadi, and meanwhile the international coalition continues air strikes through ISIS-held territory. In other news, the Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, called for the removal of Turkish forces at the UN Security Council this month, condemning their presence as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty. Demonstrations also continue, particularly in response to Saudi Arabia's execution of prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr citing a violation of the human right to freedom of expression

as well as a clear act of aggression against all Shiites. These demonstrations are causing significant road closures and increased tension throughout Baghdad and all of Iraq.

There were several other road closures due to the holidays, none of which caused any major incidents. Otherwise, mostly peaceful demonstrations for government reform continue throughout most of Iraq's provinces.

## Visa/ Badges

This month USAID-Tarabot obtained two IZ badges for local staff members, and submitted one emergency visa request for an expatriate staff member due to complications with the validation of the multiple entry visa.

## Property

### Two disposition requests have been submitted to USAID for disposal

**First Disposition request:** Due to unresponsiveness from UNDP, it was determined with USAID that Tarabot will move forward with the disposition of excess equipment being used on the compound by Sallyport as is, without extracting the gym equipment for UNDP from the original request, submitted on Sep 9. Tarabot resubmitted the request on Dec 16, and awaits the disposition approval from USAID.

**Second Disposition request:** Sensitive equipment in two divisions:

1. List of Motorola radios, GPSs & Thuraya Phones: Sallyport have submitted an offer to buy it. These radios have been under Sallyport's custody since Tijara purchased it, Tijara transferred these to Tarabot when they closed out)

2. List of Vests, Helmets, Motorola radios, GPRS & Thuraya Phone etc....) which has been purchased by MSI, we are waiting USAID instructions regarding its disposition.

This request has been pending since July 23<sup>rd</sup> despite several reminders.

### The disposition of 18 armored vehicles:

MSI has 18 D class Armored Vehicles. Per US Regulations these are classified and cannot be given or sold to the private sector or an alien government. They can only be given to the government or to a contractor on a USG Contract. The vehicles are registered to Private Security Company (PSC), Sallyport Global Services; because only PSCs have the authority to register armored vehicles with the Gol.

The vehicles are registered in two Iraqi Directorates, the Directorate of Registration and Evaluating the Private Security Companies (PSC) and Customs under Sallyport; which means Sallyport is legally responsible and held accountable for these vehicles. MSI proposed to return these vehicles directly to USAID Iraq, since they have ownership of them. But according to Iraqi Ministry of Interior (Mol) regulations for orange plated vehicles, the PSC must donate them to the Iraqi Government or re-export them outside the country. There is no third option.

Tarabot is in the process of requesting permission from the Iraqi government to be exempted from Mol regulation. This would allow the destruction of the vehicles locally at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP), or to be donated back to USAID. Since the cost of shipping the vehicles out of country for destruction is prohibitive, an exception from the Gol is the only option. A Dip Note was



issued by the Embassy to the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) requesting this exception and *Tarabot* is awaiting feedback from the MoFA.